

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MAY 27, 2015  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Don Ward, Chairman  
Cheryl Blackburn  
Peter Stiglin

Board Members Not Present: James Collingwood, Sr.

Others Present: Jill Hughes, Clerk  
Mark Stinson, MassDEP  
Members of the public (see sign in sheet)

Chairman Don Ward called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

**Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Seaboard Solar for property on Home Road for construction of (1) 1.4 MW and (1) 1.46 MW solar arrays.** Michael Loin from Bertin Engineering sent an email requesting a continuation. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to continue the public hearing to June 8, 2015 @ 7PM. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Kenneth Westlake for property on North Main Street for construction of solar array.** Chairman Ward suggested the Commission continue the hearing and contact the applicant's representative. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to continue the public hearing to June 8, 2015 @ 7PM. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Jonathan Curtiss for property on 778 N. Undermountain Road, proposed project is invasive species control on the easterly side of Route 41 and the northerly side of Curtiss Road as recommended by forester as proper management practice.** Jonathan Curtiss was present to discuss the project with the Commission. Chairman Ward conducted a site visit prior to the meeting. Mr. Curtiss explained that the forester suggested invasive species control as part of the Forest Management Plan. The Commission reviewed the proposal for control of invasive plants from Lincoln Fish of Bay State Forestry Service dated 5/4/15 and a discussion ensued. NHESP sent a letter approving the proposed project. A discussion ensued about the wetland areas on the property. Chairman Ward asked Mark Stinson from MassDEP about the project and he informed the Commission that the activity is agricultural exempt and sited 310 CMR 10.04 Agriculture (B) 2. And (B) 14. A-F.

**P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from D. Ward to issue a Negative Determination #5 based on the regulations 310 CMR 10.04 Agriculture (B) 2. and (B) 14. A-F. The motion passed 3-0.**

Chairman Ward asked Mr. Curtiss to notify the Commission when the work will begin. Mr. Curtiss stated that phase 1 would begin in late summer/early fall and phase 2 would be in early spring 2016, but he will notify the Commission prior to the start of work.

**Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Anne Chase for property on Bow Wow Road for construction of a single family home, driveway, septic system and tree clearing. A portion of the work falls in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands.** Robert Healy, owner of the property along with his Attorney Edward McCormick and Sarah Schultz with SK Design were present. Attorney McCormick gave a brief presentation about the project. Ms. Schultz reviewed the plans with the Commission. She showed the resource areas on the site, top of bank and the mean annual high water line were marked as well as the bordering vegetated wetland. Aerial photography was used to mark the wetlands on the abutting properties. There is an existing road, but the owners will be installing a new driveway. She explained that they are out of the riverfront, but the driveway is in the buffer zone. A silt fence would be installed. MassDEP reviewed the project and had no comments and NHESP has reviewed it twice (since an RDA was filed prior) and had no negative comments.

P. Stiglin stated that when a site visit was conducted in April the site flags were not well staked. Ms. Schultz explained that they staked the house, septic and riverfront. They only flagged the resource area and not the buffer zone. A discussion ensued about staking the mean annual high water line.

Abutters Edward Flower and Nellie Fink were present and spoke about potential vernal pools on their property, how abutters are notified about hearings, riverfront area and the mean annual high water line. A discussion ensued with Mark Stinson, MassDEP about the regulations and how the mean annual high water line is determined. P. Stiglin suggested that the Commission have a third party review abutting properties and determine the mean annual high water line.

**P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from D. Ward that per G.L. Ch. 44 §53 G the Commission have a third party consultant (wetland scientist) work along with SK Design to determine the mean annual high water line on the applicant's property and the abutting property parcel #5 to be done immediately. The motion passed 2-1. C. Blackburn was opposed.**

A discussion ensued about who the Commission would hire to do the third party review. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to hire Mike Kulig from Berkshire Engineering to conduct the third party review. The motion passed 3-0.**

**D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to continue the public hearing to June 8, 2015. The motion passed 3-0.**

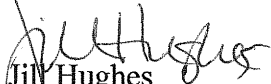
Approval of Minutes, Bills Pending, Review of Forest Cutting Plans and Upcoming Conferences and Mail were tabled to the next meeting.

**Adjournment: D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The following documents were reviewed during the Board's meeting and have been retained as required by the Massachusetts Public Retention Policy: Meeting Agenda, Sign in sheet, NOI application for Seaboard Solar; NOI application for Kenneth Westlake; RDA application for Jonathan Curtiss; NOI application for Anne Chase.

Respectively submitted by:

  
Jill Hughes  
Recording Secretary